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## ENTERING A NEW CYCLE

by Laurie A. Monroe

*Our work and research at the Institute are meaningful only if they can be reduced to practical application, to ‘something of value’ to the participant.” I hope that those of you who have attended one of our residential programs will pause for a moment to remember that experience and how it has affected your life. Please take a moment of silence and do this now.*

The world we knew has changed irretrievably in the past four months. It is no longer possible to take our security for granted or depend on others to take responsibility for us. We must assume responsibility for our own lives. Many of us have also realized that our time on Earth can end abruptly and unexpectedly. Some of us have reprioritized our lives accordingly and have begun to reevaluate their true meaning and purpose. It is apparent to most of us that it is time to make a difference in the world and in our communities, but we may question how. What can individuals do to have an impact on world events?

Perhaps the place to start is “at home.” As each of us looks within and recognizes his or her soul’s purpose, our current path is revealed as a very small part of the journey. Granted, it is an important part because the distilled meaning of the learning experience Here is all that we take with us on leaving the physical plane. Knowing we chose to be here now, at this particular point in history, is evidence that simply by being present we are making a difference for those who follow us. So the first step on the path is a journey inward. As the memory of who we truly are grows stronger and stronger, we are empowered to share that memory with those around us. We do so by simply BEING what we remember, by conducting ourselves in alignment with our true nature.

Certainly, one way to open to this remembrance is by participating in the GATEWAY VOYAGE®. In the safe haven created by the VOYAGE, participants form deep bonds with one another and acquire the skills and resilience to triumph over life’s toughest challenges. Life-changing insights open their hearts to wholeness. They also gain a deep sense of inner security and confidence through directly knowing they survive physical death. That knowing shifts one’s perception of physical existence. Compassion and service to others become a way of life. Through serving others, ultimately we also serve ourselves.

If you have not attended the GATEWAY VOYAGE, I encourage you to do so. If you are already a program graduate, please consider gifting a friend or loved one. Such an opportunity for revitalization and renewal would be “something of value” to last for a lifetime. Of course, a gift’s worth is not measured by its size or its cost. We have received a wonderful response to our recent donation letter—a flood of small gifts that are appreciated more than I can say. So

give a book, share a story, or treat a stranger with compassion. Giving of ourselves can bring the collective into balance.

In November I had the opportunity to give a presentation at the Prophets Conference in Florida. My fellow presenters included respected visionaries such as Edgar Mitchell, Greg Braden, Barbara Marx Hubbard, Ilona Selke, and many more. Each of them delivered messages of courage and inspiration. After listening to the speakers, one conference delegate said, "I felt that last weekend really was one of those defining moments in life when you see more clearly how to go forward and the importance of active commitment."

The vision statement of the Prophets Conference, as quoted from their Web site at <http://www.greatmystery.org>, is pertinent to the themes developed in this article.

"Many, and possibly most of the ancient teachings handed down to us from all parts of our planet, have called for a time when a fundamental, all-encompassing change would envelope us. Some placed this forecast in stone and specified this current time of our being as the time for this opening into an inexplicably unifying cycle.

"As our kind breaks free of the stultifying bonds of cultures no longer found suitable for our evolution, we find solace, renewal and understanding of our place by looking outward through our sciences and inward through our spirits. Our spirits often find newness in the ancient, and our minds often find insight in the rational.

"Taking this freshness to our hearts, we create individually and in concert, and we place a new cycle of realization in motion. The techniques we request present themselves and we call to others to join in the magnificent adventure, and to use what we have found, and then to always find more.

"We bring together the formally hidden with the newly discovered. We find linkage and commonality between the shamanic and the scientific, the anomalous and the certified, the immanent and the transcendent. From cautiously looking into our houses of mirrors we begin to find and then bravely move into multitudes of splendid definitions."

As we move into the New Year, I encourage you to turn inward to your spirit and invite you to reflect what you see outward to cocreate a new cycle of realization. Your enthusiastic participation will encourage others to look beyond appearances and embrace the unifying cycle we are entering. Through resonance, others will feel what you are expressing. That feeling is the gateway to All That Is. By taking a moment to be still and listen to our hearts, perhaps we will BE what we are seeking to express. Through that being we will "make a difference" and give "something of value" to all who share our life journey.

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